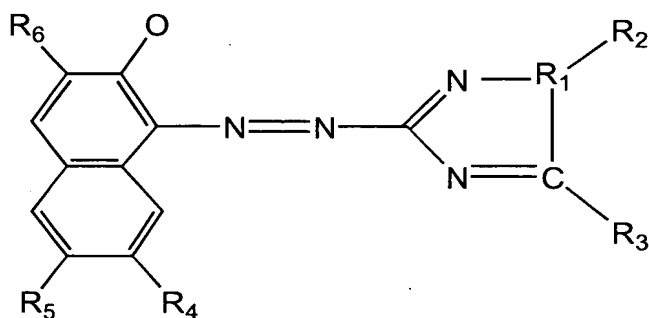


LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (original) A magenta dye blend for formulating an ink-jet ink, comprising:
(a) a nickel-containing azo dye, blended with (b) a rhodamine dye, said nickel-containing azo dye to rhodamine dye weight ratio being from 1:80 to 125:4.

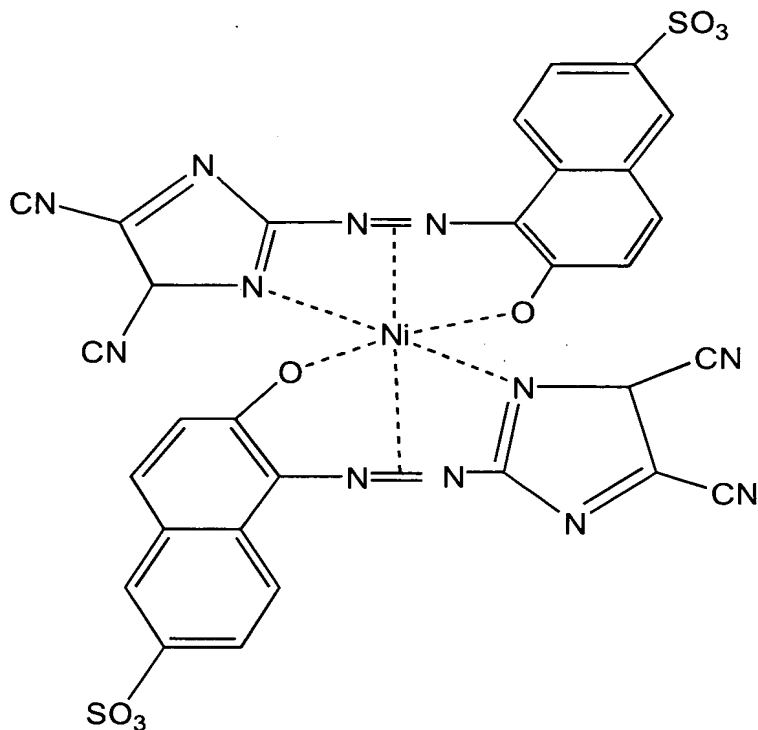
2. (original) A magenta dye blend as in claim 1, wherein the nickel -containing azo dye comprises a nickel metalized naphthol azo triazole.

3. (original) A magenta dye blend as in claim 1, wherein the nickel-containing azo dye comprises a dye having the structure:



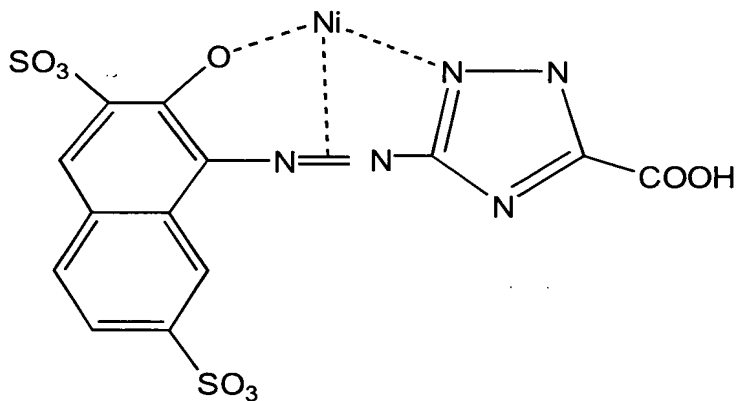
wherein the nickel to dye molecule ratio is 1:1, 1:2 or 2:2; and wherein R₁ is N or C; R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅ and R₆ are CN, COOM, SO₃, SO₃M, H, or SO₂NH₂; and wherein M is H, Na, Li, K, NH₄, ammonium substituted alkyl or combinations thereof.

4. (currently amended) A magenta dye blend as in claim 3, wherein the nickel-containing azo dye comprises a dye having the structure:



wherein the nickel to dye molecule ratio is 1:2; and wherein ~~R₁ is C; R₂ and R₃ are~~ CN; ~~R₅ is SO₃; and R₄ and R₆ are H.~~

5. (currently amended) A magenta dye blend as in claim 3, wherein the nickel-containing azo dye comprises a dye having the structure:



wherein the nickel to dye molecule ratio is 1:1; and wherein ~~R₁ is N; R₂ is H; R₃ is~~ COOH; ~~R₄ is SO₃; R₅ is H and R₆ is SO₃.~~

6. (original) A magenta dye blend as in claim 1, wherein the rhodamine dye comprises a member selected from the group consisting of Acid Red 52, Acid Red

289, Acid Red 388, and mixtures thereof.

7. (original) A magenta dye blend as in claim 1, wherein the nickel-containing azo dye is a single nickel-containing azo dye.

8. (original) A magenta dye blend as in claim 1, wherein the nickel-containing azo dye is at least two nickel-containing azo dyes blended together.

9. (original) A magenta dye blend as in claim 1, wherein the rhodamine dye is a single rhodamine dye.

10. (original) A magenta dye blend as in claim 1, wherein the rhodamine dye is at least two rhodamine dyes blended together.

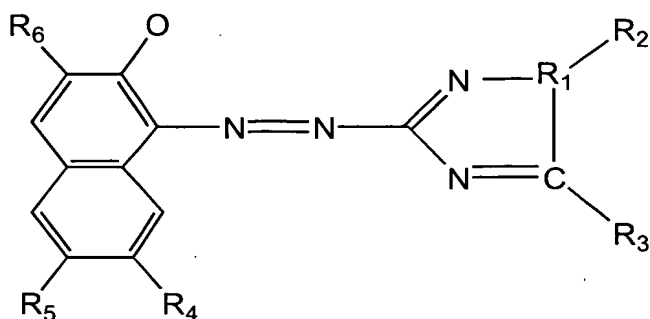
11. (original) A magenta ink-jet ink for ink-jet printing, comprising: (a) an effective amount of an ink vehicle; and (b) from 0.9 wt % to 10.5 wt % of a magenta dye blend admixed in the ink vehicle, said magenta dye blend comprising a nickel-containing azo dye, and a rhodamine dye at a weight ratio from 1:80 to 125:4.

12. (original) A magenta ink-jet ink as in claim 11, wherein the rhodamine dye is present in the magenta ink-jet ink at from 0.1 wt % to 2.5 wt %.

13. (original) A magenta ink-jet ink as in claim 11, wherein the nickel-containing azo dye is present in the magenta ink-jet ink at from 0.8 wt % to 8 wt %.

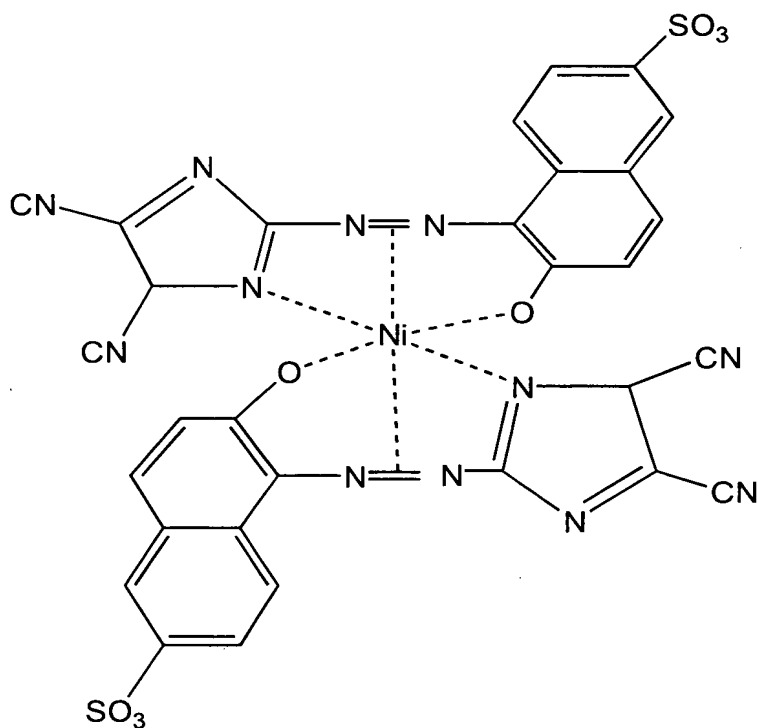
14. (original) A magenta ink-jet ink as in claim 11, wherein the nickel-containing azo dye comprises a nickel metalized naphthol azo triazole

15. (currently amended) A magenta ink-jet ink as in claim 11, wherein the nickel-containing azo dye comprises a dye having the structure:



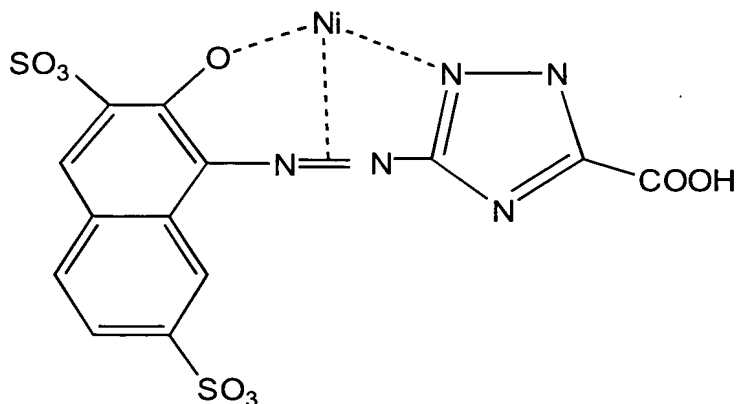
wherein the nickel to dye molecule ratio is 1:1, 1:2 or 2:2; and wherein R_1 is N or C; R_2 , R_3 , R_4 , R_5 and R_6 are CN, COOM, SO_3 , SO_3M , H, or SO_2NH_2 ; and wherein M is H, Na, Li, K, NH_4 , ammonium substituted alkyl or combinations thereof.

16. (currently amended) A magenta ink-jet ink as in claim 15, wherein the nickel-containing azo dye comprises a dye having the structure:



wherein the dye has a nickel to dye molecule ratio of 1:2; and wherein R_1 is C; R_2 and R_3 are CN; R_5 is SO_3 ; and R_4 and R_6 are H.

17. (currently amended) A magenta ink-jet ink as in claim 15, wherein the nickel-containing azo dye comprises a dye having the structure:



wherein the nickel to dye molecule ratio is 1:1; and wherein R_1 is N; R_2 is H; R_3 is COOH; R_4 is SO₃; R_5 is H and R_6 is SO₃.

18. (original) A magenta ink-jet ink as in claim 11, wherein the rhodamine dye comprises a member selected from the group consisting of Acid Red 52, Acid Red 289, Acid Red 388, and mixtures thereof.

19. (original) A magenta ink-jet ink as in claim 11, wherein the nickel-containing azo dye is a single nickel-containing azo dye.

20. (original) A magenta ink-jet ink as in claim 11, wherein the nickel-containing azo dye is at least two nickel-containing azo dyes blended together.

21. (original) A magenta ink-jet ink as in claim 11, wherein the rhodamine dye is a single rhodamine dye.

22. (original) A magenta ink-jet ink as in claim 11, wherein the rhodamine dye is at least two rhodamine dyes blended together.

23. (original) A magenta ink-jet ink as in claim 11, wherein the ink vehicle comprises from 5.0% to 50.0% by weight of solvent, from 0.01% to 10.0% of surfactant, and water.